

## Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STOCKH 03229 041628Z  
ACTION ORM-02

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 DHA-02 VO-03  
NSC-05 SS-15 L-03 SCA-01 INSE-00 CIAE-00 INR-07  
NSAE-00 SY-05 FBIE-00 DODE-00 PRS-01 INRE-00  
NSCE-00 SSO-00 /080 W  
-----086182 041655Z /47

O R 041524Z AUG 77  
FM AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1253  
INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA  
AMEMBASSY BONN  
AMCONSUL FRANKFURT  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI  
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

S E C R E T STOCKHOLM 3229

E.O.11652: GDS  
TAGS: CVIS, SREF, ET, SW  
SUBJECT: ASYLUM REQUEST OF MEMBERS OF ETHIOPIAN ROYAL FAMILY

REF: STATE 182369

1. ALTHOUGH THIS EMBASSY ENTERED THE PICTURE LATE AND HAS ONLY PARTIAL INFORMATION, WE ASK THE DEPARTMENT'S LEAVE TO STATE THE SITUATION AS IT NOW APPEARS FROM STOCKHOLM, SETTING OUT POSSIBLE COURSES OF ACTION AND ASKING GUIDANCE ON NEXT STEPS.

2. CURRENT SITUATION: WHATEVER MAY HAVE BEEN THE ARGUMENTS FOR AND AGAINST SPIRITING THE ROYAL GRANDCHILDREN OUT OF ETHIOPIA, THIS DEED IS DONE. IT WAS DONE BY AMERICAN MISSIONARIES, AND THIS IS SURELY ALREADY KNOWN TO THE ETHIOPIAN GOVERNMENT; IF IT IS NOT, IT WILL BE AS SOON AS THE AFFAIR BECOMES PUBLIC KNOWLEDGE. MR. AND MRS. COLLINS  
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 STOCKH 03229 041628Z

ARE FIERCELY DETERMINED TO TAKE ALL TEN CHILDREN TO CALIFORNIA TOGETHER, AND TO KEEP THEM IN THEIR CARE UNTIL ONE OR MORE OF THE PARENTS IS FREED AND ASKS TO RESUME CUSTODY. THEY SAY THAT THE CROWN PRINCE IN LONDON IS 70 YEARS OLD, IN FEEBLE HEALTH, AND IS UNABLE TO ASSUME CUSTODY. THEY FURTHER SAY THAT THE TEN CHILDREN STRONGLY WISH TO REMAIN TOGETHER, AND ALL TEN WANT TO

GO TO THE US WITH THE COLLINSES.

3. POSSIBLE ALTERNATIVE COURSES OF ACTION OPEN TO USG:

(A) PERSUADE THE COLLINSES TO TAKE THE CHILDREN TO THE UK. WE DO NOT BELIEVE THIS WILL WORK. THEY SAY THE CHILDREN WILL BE SPLIT UP AMONG FOSTER PARENT GROUPS, WHICH THE CHILDREN DO NOT WANT, SO THE COLLINSES SEE NO REASON TO GO TO THE UK. (B) EMBASSY STOCKHOLM TO PLAY HANDS OFF. WE BELIEVE THIS WOULD BE TO INVITE THE COLLINSES OR THEIR SWEDISH SPONSORS TO GO TO THE PRESS WITH THE STORY, PUTTING THE USG IN A BAD LIGHT FROM THE HUMAN RIGHTS POINT OF VIEW AND CAUSING ALL THE BAD CONSEQUENCES FEARED IN ADDIS ABABA FROM PUBLICITY. (C) SAY THAT THIS IS LIKE ANY OTHER ETHIOPIAN ASYLUM CASE AND TELL THE COLLINSES (AS IN STATE 182369) TO PROCEED TO GERMANY WITHOUT ANY ASSISTANCE FROM USG AND WITHOUT ANY GUARANTEES THAT THEIR APPLICATIONS WILL BE APPROVED. THIS COURSE SEEMS TO US LACKING IN HUMANITARIAN CONSIDERATION; IT ALSO LEAVES THE DANGER THAT THE COLLINSES OR THEIR SPONSORS WILL GO TO THE PRESS, AS THE PROCESS DRAGS ON. (IF THIS COURSE IS ADOPTED, HOWEVER, SOME OF THE EDGE MIGHT BE TAKEN OFF BY THE COLLINSES' PROCURING MULTIPLE-ENTRY VISAS FROM THE SWEDES AND MAKING STOCKHOLM HOME BASE WHILE THEY CARRY OUT THEIR APPLICATION PROCEDURES IN GERMANY.) (D) FACILITATE THE COLLINSES' AND THE CHILDREN'S ENTRY INTO THE US AS QUIETLY AND AS DIRECTLY  
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 STOCKH 03229 041628Z

AS POSSIBLE. THIS COULD BE DONE ALONG THE LINES OF FRANKFURT'S 5779 (WHICH IT SEEMS TO US SETS FORTH THE SITUATION MOST ABLY). OR, IF SPEED AND QUIETNESS ARE AS IMPORTANT AS THEY SEEM TO BE, SOME BUREAUCRATIC MEANS COULD BE FOUND TO ISSUE PAPERS HERE FOR DIRECT ONWARD TRAVEL TO THE US.

4. WE ARE CLEARLY NOT FAMILIAR ENOUGH WITH THE COMPLEX SITUATION IN THE HORN OF AFRICA TO PRONOUNCE ON THE DEPARTMENT'S POLITICAL REASONS BEHIND THIS CASE. OUR ASSUMPTION WOULD BE THAT ON THE LARGER SCALE, CURRENT US RELATIONS WITH SOMALIA AND THE OTHER COUNTRIES BORDERING ETHIOPIA WOULD BE THE DETERMINING ELEMENTS, NOT THE PRIVATE ACTION OF TWO US MISSIONARIES IN TAKING OUT TEN ROYAL GRANDCHILDREN OR THE SUBSEQUENT ACTION OF THE USG IN ALLOWING THEM ENTRY INTO THE US. ACCORDING TO THE COLLINSES, THEY MADE SURE ALL OF THEIR GROUP WERE OUT OF ETHIOPIA BEFORE THEY COMMENCED THIS OPERATION. IF THERE IS CONCERN ABOUT THE SAFETY OF OTHER ROYAL FAMILY MEMBERS, OR OF MISSIONARIES AND OFFICIAL AMERICANS, IS THERE STILL TIME TO LIMIT THE DAMAGE? SINCE THE CHILDREN CANNOT BE PUT BACK, CAN DAMAGE BEST BE LIMITED

BY KEEPING THE MATTER OUT OF THE PUBLIC EYE IF POSSIBLE? IF SO, THE WISEST COURSE, IT APPEARS FROM HERE, IS TO FACILITATE ENTRY OF THE CHILDREN TO THE US, SINCE NO FESASIBLE ALTERNATIVE IS IN SIGHT. (THE USG'S ACTION IN ALLOWING TWO US CITIZENS TO REENTER THE US WITH THEIR ALIEN CHARGES WOULD NOT SEEM TO US TO IMPLICATE THE USG DIRECTLY IN THE COLLINSES' ACTIONS IN ETHIOPIA--ALTHOUGH WE REALIZE THAT THE ETHIOPIANS MAY LOOK AT THINGS DIFFERENTLY.)

5. THE PERSONAL SIDE. WE HAVE NOT SEET THE CHILDREN, ALTHOUGH THE COLLINSES HAVE TOLD US WE ARE MORE THAN WELCOME TO MEET WITH THEM AT ANY TIME. WE ARE AWARE THAT THE DEPARTMENT MAY QUESTION SOME OF THE COLLINSES' SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 04 STOCKH 03229 041628Z

STATEMENTS, NOT TO MENTION THEIR ACTIONS. WE HAVE TALKED TO THEM AT SOME LENGTH AND CAN REPORT THAT THEY SEEM REASONABLE AND SOLID, AS WELL AS STRONG-WILLED. AS THEY SEE IT, THE PARENTS ARE PROBABLY GOING TO DIE, AND THE CHILDREN BADLY NEED HELP; THEY HAVE HAD SEVERAL OF THE CHILDREN LIVING WITH THEM FOR ALMOST TWO YEARS, AND THEY HAVE DECIDED THAT THEY WILL UNDERTAKE TO CARE FOR ALL TEN NOW (IN ADDITION TO THEIR OWN TWO). THEY ARE NOT WORRIED ABOUT FINANCES, SINCE THEY SAY A NUMBER OF GROUPS HAVE OFFERED FINANCIAL SUPPORT (AND THEY CAN OFFER LETTERS IF THEY ARE DESIRED). THEY FEEL THAT THE REGIME IN ADDIS IS AS ANTI-US AS IT CAN BECOME RIGHT NOW, AND THEY CLAIM THAT THEY ARE SURE THEIR ACTIONS WILL NOT ENDANGER ANYONE WHO WAS NOT ALREADY IN DANGER. THEY SAY THE CHILDREN, WHO HAVE BEEN THROUGH HELL, ARE STRONGLY DETERMINED TO STAY TOGETHER, AND WISH TO GO ON TO THE US AND SETTLE DOWN IN A SECURE PLACE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. IN BRIEF, THE COLLINSES COME ACROSS TO US, AND THEY PRESUMABLY WOULD COME ACROSS TO ANY JOURNALIST, AS VERY ALTRUISTIC AND WELL-INTENTIONED PEOPLE WHO ARE SAVING TEN INNOCENT CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE FROM PROBABLE DEATH: THEY DO NOT UNDERSTAND WHY THE USG SHOULD WISH TO MAKE IT HARD FOR THEM TO GO HOME IMMEDIATELY WITH THEIR CHARGES.

6. AS THE FOREGOING IMPLIES, WE BELIEVE IT IS IN THE NATIONAL INTERST, AS WELL AS A HUMANITARIAN DEED, TO FACILITATE THE CHILDREN'S PROMPT TRAVEL TO THE US, PREFERABLY DIRECTLY FROM STOCKHOLM. WE REQUEST THE DEPARTMENT TO REVIEW THE CASE, TAKING SPECIAL NOTE OF THE POSSIBLE HARMFUL CONSEQUENCES IF ENTRY IS NOT GRANTED, AND PROVIDE US WITH INSTRUCTIONS FOR OUR NEXT MEETING WITH THE COLLINSES.

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PAGE 05 STOCKH 03229 041628Z

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